

The obviousness rejection over Hattori in view of Morokawa is traversed. Morokawa is cited only for its structural disclosure appearing in the "Description of the Related Art" section appearing at column 2 of the reference. Hattori, the primary reference, discloses only a liquid crystal display device that relies upon simple nematic liquid crystals. See, for example, the several embodiments beginning with Embodiment 1 at column 5.

Because the combination of prior art does not disclose or suggest the invention as presently claimed, Applicants respectfully submit that the cited combination fails to present a *prima facie* case of obviousness. Thus, and because the rejection is unsustainable, it should be withdrawn.

Applicants thus respectfully request a Notice of Allowance in this case.

Respectfully submitted,

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**Marked-Up Copy**  
Serial No: 09/813,988  
Amendment Filed on:  
Herewith

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IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend Claims 1, 2 and 10 as follows.

--1. (Amended) [In a] A liquid crystal display element comprising a front side substrate having a front side electrode, a rear side substrate having a rear side electrode and a liquid crystal layer interposed therebetween wherein the liquid crystal layer is a chiral nematic liquid crystal layer that exhibits a plurality of display states; a display state is changed by a voltage applied across the electrodes, and at least one state among the display states is maintained stably, the liquid crystal display element being characterized in that at least a part of the front side electrode and the front side substrate is transparent; the front side electrode or the rear side electrode is divided into a plurality of electrode regions on its substrate surface, and the maximum space  $a$  ( $\mu\text{m}$ ) between adjacent electrode regions and the thickness  $d$  ( $\mu\text{m}$ ) of the liquid crystal layer satisfy a relational formula of  $1.0 \cdot d \leq a \leq 4.0 \cdot d$ .

2. (Amended) [In a] A liquid crystal display element comprising a front side substrate having a front side electrode, a rear side substrate having a rear side electrode and a liquid crystal layer interposed therebetween wherein the liquid crystal layer is a chiral nematic liquid crystal layer that exhibits a plurality of display states; a display state is changed by a voltage applied across the electrodes, and at least one state among the display states is maintained stably, the liquid crystal display element being characterized in that at least a part of the front side electrode and the front side substrate is transparent; the front side electrode or the rear side electrode is divided into a plurality of electrode regions on its substrate

surface; a chiral nematic liquid crystal is used for the liquid crystal layer; the maximum space  $a$  ( $\mu\text{m}$ ) between adjacent electrode regions, the thickness  $d$  ( $\mu\text{m}$ ) of the liquid crystal layer, and the maximum effective voltage  $V_{\text{max}}$  (V) of a voltage applied to the front side electrode and the rear side electrode satisfy a relational formula of  $1.0 \cdot d \leq a \leq d \cdot V_{\text{max}}/10$ .

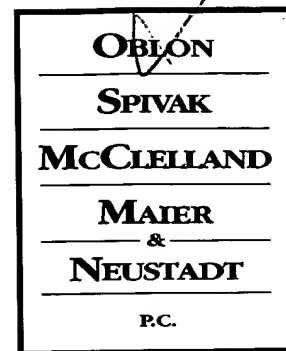
10. (Amended) A liquid crystal display apparatus [characterized in that] comprising the liquid crystal display element described in Claim 2 [is used;] wherein when a segment display and/or a dot matrix display is carried out[, and] figures and characters are displayed.--

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Docket No.: 205040US0

ASSISTANT COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS  
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20231



ATTORNEYS AT LAW

RE: Application Serial No.: 09/813,988  
Applicants: Noriko SUEHIRO, et al.  
Filing Date: March 22, 2001  
For: LIQUID CRYSTAL DISPLAY ELEMENT AND  
LIQUID CRYSTAL DISPLAY APPARATUS  
Group Art Unit: 2871  
Examiner: RUDE, Timothy, L.

SIR:

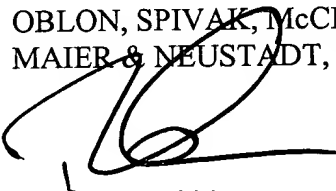
Attached hereto for filing are the following papers:

**AMENDMENT W/MARKED-UP COPY; REQUEST FOR EXTENSION OF  
TIME (TWO-MONTH)**

Our check in the amount of \$400.00 is attached covering any required fees. In the event any variance exists between the amount enclosed and the Patent Office charges for filing the above-noted documents, including any fees required under 37 C.F.R. 1.136 for any necessary Extension of Time to make the filing of the attached documents timely, please charge or credit the difference to our Deposit Account No. 15-0030. Further, if these papers are not considered timely filed, then a petition is hereby made under 37 C.F.R. 1.136 for the necessary extension of time. A duplicate copy of this sheet is enclosed.

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